

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for operating cooperating, differing devices, particularly of a plant with different controls controlling the same through control sequences and in particular with different control clocks, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the clocks of the different controls are interpolated on a common system clock (t_{Tick}) and that the control sequences are synchronized in at least one synchronizing device.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein operational units of the plant are provided with control signals after synchronization following a further interpolation.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that,~~ wherein the different control clocks of the different controls are selected according to a relationship

$$\text{IPO}_i = n_i \cdot t_{\text{Tick}}, n_i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

in which t_{Tick} is an integral multiple of a clock of hardware used for performing the method.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 3,~~ claim 1, wherein the interpolation takes place on a common system clock in a common interpolating device for a control.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 4,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the axes of the devices are coordinated.

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 5,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein synchronization and/or coordination is performed in
real time.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein through the operational units a modified system clock
is proposed to a coordinating device.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein
the coordinating device accepts or refuses the modified system clock.

9. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim ~~7 or 8,~~ characterized in that 7,
wherein for the modified system clock the following applies:

$$t_{\text{Tick}}' = 1/n' \cdot t_{\text{Tick}}, n' = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

10. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim ~~8 or 9~~, ~~characterized in that,~~
8, wherein following the clock change, a plurality of functional units continue to be operated
according to the old system clock.

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 10,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein in each case a plurality of devices of a specific device
type is operated.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for operating cooperating, differing devices,
particularly of a plant, with different controls controlling the same through control
sequences, particularly with different control clocks, ~~characterized by~~ wherein at least one
common interpolating device (~~5.3~~) for the controls (~~3.1, 3.2, 3.3~~) for interpolating the
5 clocks (~~IPO_i~~) of the different controls (~~3.1, 3.2, 3.3~~) on a common system clock (t_{Tick}) and at
least one synchronizing device (~~5~~) for synchronizing the control sequences is included.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterized by~~
wherein at least one further interpolating device (~~5.5~~) for interpolating control signals for
operational units (~~6.1 a-g~~) of the devices following synchronization is included.

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~12 or 13~~, characterized by 12, wherein a coordinating device ~~(5)~~ for coordinating the control sequences is included.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 12 to 14~~, characterized in that claim 12, wherein the synchronizing and/or coordinating devices ~~(5)~~ are real timable.

16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 12 to 15~~, characterized by claim 12, wherein a non-real timable component ~~(2.1)~~ for modifying the settings of the synchronizing and/or coordinating device ~~(5)~~ is included.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~claims 12 to 16~~, characterized in that claim 12, wherein at least the synchronizing and/or coordinating device ~~(5)~~ and a plurality of controls ~~(3.1, 3.2, 3.3)~~ are constructed as programming devices implementable on a common computer unit ~~(PC)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 12 to 17~~, characterized in that claim 12, wherein further devices can be connected during operation.

19. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 12 to 18,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 12, wherein the common interpolating device (5.3) is constructed
for the interpolation of control clocks in the form

$$IPO_i = n_i \cdot t_{\text{Tick}}, n_i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

5 in which t_{Tick} is an integral multiple of a clock of hardware used.

20. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 12 to 19,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 12, wherein the synchronizing and/or coordinating device (5) is
constructed for modifying the system clock (t_{Tick}) on request by at least one operational unit
(6.1 a-g) and for the modified system clock (t_{Tick}') the following applies:

$$t_{\text{Tick}}' = 1/n' \cdot t_{\text{Tick}}, n' = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the synchronizing and/or coordinating device (5) has an evaluating device (2.6) for
evaluating the system load and its result is vital for the modification of the system clock
(t_{Tick}).

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 21 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claims 1 through 21 have been amended. The amended claims present the same subject matter as the original claims but have been amended to adapt them to the U. S. style. The new claims present subject matter similar to the original claims, but in a different form.

The specification and claims have been amended in order to place this application in better form. The reference to claims in the specification has been deleted or amended. Appropriate headings have been added. No new matter has been added.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



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Enclosed: Substitute Specification and Marked up copy of Translation

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